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### **For Immediate Release**

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A Travis County Grand Jury has concluded its review of the shooting death of Maurice Paladino by Austin Police Department (APD) officer Brandon Blanch and has determined that no indictment will be issued against the officer.

On September 25, 2012, Officer Blanch was working patrol when Officer Joseph Hernandez announced over the radio that he had located a stolen vehicle parked in a motel parking lot on South Interstate Highway 35. At the time, Maurice Paladino had outstanding arrest warrants and was believed to be the suspect who had stolen this vehicle earlier in the day from Long Motors. Officer Blanch and his passenger, Officer Chris Anderson, were en route to assist Officer Hernandez when Officer Hernandez located Paladino at the motel. Before Officer Blanch and Officer Anderson arrived at the motel, Officer Hernandez broadcast over the radio that Paladino was now driving the stolen vehicle.

As Officer Blanch pulled into the motel parking lot, he and Officer Anderson spotted the stolen vehicle driving toward the exit. Officer Anderson and Officer Blanch exited the patrol vehicle. Officer Anderson approached the suspect vehicle with his weapon drawn in an attempt to detain the suspect. The suspect vehicle stopped, then began backing up. The vehicle then pulled forward and drove toward Officer Blanch, who was standing in the parking lot near his patrol vehicle. As the vehicle drove toward Officer Blanch, he believed the vehicle was about to strike him and pin him against his patrol vehicle. Officer Blanch fired six rounds into the vehicle. When officers approached Paladino to detain him, they realized that he had suffered life threatening injuries. EMS was called.

Officer Hernandez's patrol car video shows Paladino driving the stolen vehicle toward Officer Blanch and Officer Blanch firing at the vehicle. Witnesses saw the vehicle back up, rev the engine and then move forward at a fast speed toward Officer Blanch. Other law enforcement officers arrived and Paladino was transported to University Medical Center-Brackenridge where Paladino subsequently died on September 26, 2012.

The Grand Jury heard over seven hours of testimony from eight witnesses, including two members of Paladino's family.

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